



**EPA Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances**

**How To Comply with the Worker Protection Standard  
for Agricultural Pesticides: What Employers Need to Know  
About this Manual**

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Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (MC 7506C)  
Washington, D.C. 20460

<http://www.epa.gov/agriculture/htc.html>



# ABOUT THIS MANUAL

This “How To Comply” manual will:

- Help you determine whether you are covered by the WPS,
- Give you detailed information on how to comply with the WPS requirements, including exceptions, restrictions, exemptions, options, and examples, and
- Provide you with a “Quick Reference Guide” — a simplified route to compliance that focuses on **maximum** requirements.

Important definitions and other special explanations are enclosed in shaded boxes. Reading them will help you better understand the WPS requirements and how they apply to you.

## LABELING OVERRIDES WPS

If the pesticide product labeling contains specific instructions or requirements that conflict with the requirements of the Worker Protection Standard, **follow the instructions or requirements on the labeling**. For example, some pesticide labeling may:

- Prohibit any early-entry activity, including short-term and emergency tasks.
- Allow an early-entry activity that the WPS does not allow.
- Require the use of personal protective equipment even if closed systems are used for mixing and loading.

## EXCEPTIONS TO LABELING STATEMENTS

The WPS allows certain exceptions to three specific pesticide labeling requirements: **personal protective equipment (p. 62)**, **restricted-entry intervals (p. 36)**, and **double notification (p. 33)** (the requirement on some labeling for both oral warnings **and** posting treated areas). The WPS statements in the Agricultural Use Requirements box on the product labeling will tell you that the WPS contains these exceptions.

*Entry during a restricted-entry interval is permitted only in a few strictly limited circumstances; see Early Entry, p. 47*